REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the official action dated February 7, 2011. Claims 1-11, 49-63, 87-92, and 94-96 were pending in the application. In the official action, claims 1-11, 49-63, 87-92, and 94-96 were rejected. In this Amendment, claims 1-11, 49-63, 87, and 88 have been amended. Claims 1-11, 49-63, 87-92, and 94-96 thus remain for consideration.

Applicants submit that claims 1-11, 49-63, 87-92, and 94-96 are in condition for allowance and request withdrawal of the rejections in light of the following remarks.

Specification

The disclosure was objected to because of informalities.

Applicants have amended the disclosure. The amendments to the disclosure do not add new matter to the application, and place the disclosure in compliance with all formality requirements. Accordingly, Applicants request that the objection to the disclosure be withdrawn.

Claim Objection

Claim 5 was objected to because of an informality.

Applicants have amended claim 5, and submit that the amendment to claim 5 renders claim 5 compliant with all formality requirements. Accordingly, Applicants request that the objection to claim 5 be withdrawn.

§112 Rejections

Claims 2-10 and 50-63 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

Claims 2-10 and 50-63 have been amended. Applicants submit that the amendments to claims 2-10 and 50-63 render claims 2-10 and 50-63 compliant with §112. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejections under §112 be withdrawn.

§102 and §103 Rejections

Claims 1-8, 11, 49-55, 63, 87-92, and 94-96 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Berstis et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,282,653).

Claims 9, 10, and 56-61 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Berstis in view of Downs et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,226,618).

Claim 62 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Berstis.

Applicants submit that the independent claims (claims 1, 11, and 49) are patentable over Berstis and Downs (together "the cited references").

Applicants' invention as recited in claim 1 is directed toward a integrated data reproducing apparatus. The claim recites in part: "an interface that safely exchanges data with an external apparatus by encrypting the data … said at least one of information concerning a number of occurrences in which said contents is reproduced and information concerning an amount of time during which said contents is reproduced being transmitted through said interface in support of the updating that occurs upon reproduction." Claims 11 and 49 include similar recitations.

Neither of the cited references discloses the quoted recitation. Accordingly, Applicants believe that claims 1, 11, and 49 are patentable over the cited references – taken either individually or in combination – on at least this basis.

Further, since dependent claims inherit the limitations of their respective base claims, Applicants believe

that dependent claims 2-10, 50-63, 87-92, and 94-96 are patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons discussed in connection with the independent claims.

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited. If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to telephone the undersigned at (908) 654-5000.

The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 12-1095.

The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

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